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LRB098 23498 MST 62675 r

1

SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois State Senate were
3 saddened to learn of the passing of Rabbi Isaac Neuman, a
4 resident of Central Illinois for the past 40 years, on November
5 17, 2014; and

6

WHEREAS, Rabbi Isaac Neuman, who was born in Zdunska Wola,
7 Poland in 1922, was a survivor of Nazi death camps and slave
8 labor (Junikowo, St. Martin's, Fuerstenfelde,
9 Auschwitz-Birkenau, Fuenfteichen, Gross-Rosen, Mauthausen,
10 Wels and Ebensee); and

11

WHEREAS, Rabbi Isaac Neuman lost nearly his entire family
12 in the Holocaust, including both his parents, 6 sisters, a
13 younger brother, and a grandmother; his left forearm was
14 tattooed with his number from Auschwitz: 143945; his Ebensee
15 camp was liberated by National Guard soldiers of the United
16 States Army's 80th infantry division in May of 1945; and

17

WHEREAS, Rabbi Isaac Neuman was one of the very few people
18 in America who first received a traditional Jewish education in
19 some of the most prestigious Talmudic academies in Poland
20 (Yeshivat Chachmei in Lublin, Eitz Chaim in Kalisch and Emek
21 Halacha in Warsaw) and was later ordained as a Rabbi by the
22 Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, Ohio; he was awarded a

1 Doctor of Divinity Degree by the Hebrew Union College in 1985;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Rabbi Isaac Neuman bore witness to Nazi atrocities
4 through lectures, teaching, and appearances at churches, high
5 schools, colleges, and universities (including Parkland
6 College and the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign)
7 throughout Illinois and around the world; and

8 WHEREAS, Rabbi Isaac Neuman served as Rabbi of Sinai Temple
9 in Champaign from 1974 to 1987, and as Rabbi Emeritus
10 thereafter; and

11 WHEREAS, Rabbi Isaac Neuman helped re-establish Jewish
12 communities in Germany and educated rabbis and educators across
13 the United States, Europe, and Latin America over a period 60
14 years; and

15 WHEREAS, Rabbi Isaac Neuman served on the board that
16 created the United States Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C.,
17 (under a presidential appointment by President Ronald Reagan)
18 and later was part of a delegation representing President
19 George W. Bush at the dedication of the museum at the Yad
20 Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem; and

21 WHEREAS, Rabbi Isaac Neuman served as Auxiliary Chaplain at

1 Chanute Air Force Base from 1974 until its closing; he also
2 ministered to members of United States Armed Forces in bases
3 and installations around the world over a period of 40 years;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, After retiring from Sinai Temple, Rabbi Isaac
6 Neuman returned to East Berlin in 1987-88, the first new rabbi
7 there since the war, and established a congregation within
8 walking distance of Hitler's bunker; and

9 WHEREAS, Rabbi Isaac Neuman was a leader in interfaith
10 activities, serving as President of the Ministerial
11 Association of Champaign-Urbana; during his time as a rabbi at
12 Sinai, he welcomed dozens of different church group as visitors
13 to Friday night services at Sinai Temple; he also participated,
14 with interfaith clergy, in the historic civil-rights march in
15 1965 in Selma, Alabama, with the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Rabbi Isaac Neuman twice delivered the opening
18 prayer in the United States House of Representatives, in 1970
19 and later in 1983; and

20 WHEREAS, Rabbi Isaac Neuman's memoir, "The Narrow Bridge:
21 Beyond the Holocaust", co-authored with Michael Palencia-Roth
22 and published by the University of Illinois Press, is an

1 important first-hand account of the Nazi's crimes against
2 humanity; therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL
4 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
5 the Rabbi Isaac Neuman, and extend our sincere condolences to
6 his family, friends, the Champaign-Urbana and University of
7 Illinois communities, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
8 further

9 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
10 presented to the family of Rabbi Isaac Neuman as an expression
11 of our deepest sympathy.